

Reds Infiltrated Agency**Reds Within Plagued German Spymaster**

BONN (UPI)—The spymaster who has been Germany's eyes and ears in Eastern Europe for a quarter century is retiring this year with his veil of mystery still unturned.

Only a couple of pictures of Reinhard Gehlen, none recent, most of them with his features hidden behind dark glasses and in the shadow of a wide-brimmed hat, have ever been published.

His personality is as little known as his face.

Like all men who surround themselves with an air of mystery, he is thought by the general public to be a figure of glamor and a near genius directing a corps of the world's best spies and top analysts, always one jump ahead of the permanent enemy, the Communists.

THE TRUTH is less sensational.

For one thing, Gehlen apparently leads a prosaic, almost dull life, sticking close to his home in a restricted area in Pullach, on the banks of the Isar River south of Munich.

For another, his outfit isn't as sharp as he or the taxpayers would like.

He was unable to predict, discover or thwart the Communist decision to build a wall through Berlin, sealing the last gap in the Iron Curtain dividing Communist from Western Germany.

The Federal Intelligence Agency (FIA) that Gehlen created and directed was infiltrated with Soviet agents as early as 1950. The Russian technique was simple. Moscow recruited several former Gestapo officers who found it easy to get on to Gehlen's staff because his personnel office considered the Nazi bully boys probably were the world's leading experts on communism.

FOR 11 YEARS, Heinz Felte and other Gestapo men turned Communist spies riddled Gehlen's outfit. In 1960, the group celebrated a double anniversary—the unsuspecting Gehlen presented the spies with certificates in recognition of 10 years of faithful service, while the Russians gave the boys a \$500 bonus, for the same reason.

Only in 1961, did Gehlen finally discover the enemy within.

Perhaps because of the revelations of Communist infiltration and the failure to detect Communist preparations for the Berlin Wall, Gehlen's stock fell, and the government came to rely less on his office.

Gehlen did show an unusual talent for survival. As chief of

Foreign Armies East, a wartime intelligence section, he survived Hitler's wrath and held his job until the capitulation, when he turned himself and his files over to the Americans, who kept him on their payroll until he was transferred back to German control in 1956.

Gehlen's successor, Lt. Gen. Gerhard Wessel, is an officer Hitler considered an idiot, be-

ing Wessel, got to Munich, and there delivered themselves to the Americans. Within months of the end of the war, they were back at work, this time for Washington.

GEHLEN'S only stipulation was that his outfit revert to German control whenever Germany regained its sovereignty.

In 1956, the Americans transferred control to Bonn, which gave Gehlen an annual budget said to total about \$25 million.

Wessel already had left Gehlen to set up the new Defense Ministry's military counterintelligence service. He directed that operation until December 1962 when he was assigned to command an armored brigade. A year later, he moved on, to become the German representative on NATO's military committee in Washington. By 1965, he was a lieutenant general, at 42 years of age, the youngest in the Bundeswehr.

Gehlen, meanwhile, was approaching retirement age. He wanted Wessel to be his successor. The Bundeswehr wanted to make sure the military continued to head the FIA, even though technically the director had to lay aside his army rank in favor of a civil service title.

BUT WEST Germany has too few general officers to go around. Wessel couldn't be spared. Last year, Gehlen reached retirement age of 65, but Bonn agreed to his extension for one more year.

During that year, the Social Democrats attempted to convince Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and his Christian Democrats that the FIA job ought to go to a civilian.

But Kiesinger finally picked Wessel, on the grounds he was the only expert available.



Reinhard Gehlen

... veil still unturned

cause Wessel predicted a Soviet attack in 1945.

Wessel may also succeed to the title of Russia's public enemy No. 1 in Germany, since his main task will be to ferret out Russian political and military intentions, and anyone who has that kind of job draws Moscow's ire.

THE NEW CHIEF of the FIA is no novice in the intelligence game. He was one of the original team Gehlen gathered around him during the war in his general staff group. Wessel's particular assignment was the Soviet army.

On Jan. 9, 1945, Gehlen passed up to Hitler an analysis by Wessel, predicting a massive Soviet attack within the week.

"Absolutely idiotic," Hitler cried. "The fellow who did this ought to be put away in an insane asylum."

Three days later the Russians began an attack that smashed through the German front and carried them through to Berlin.

With the front crumbling, Gehlen began to think beyond the end of the war. Copying the most important of his files, he and key members of his staff, includ-

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